

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~catalysts reduction using~~ reducing catalysts by non-thermal plasma ~~in which~~ comprising reducing catalysts containing a metal compound[[s]] ~~are reduced~~ by bringing them into contact with hydrogen-containing gas under a non-thermal plasma state.
2. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said non-thermal plasma is generated by dielectric barrier discharge.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reduction method is conducted in conjunction with existing methods of gaseous hydrogen reduction by heating, electrochemical reduction methods, or methods of reduction by adding organic or inorganic reducing agents.
6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said reduction method is conducted in conjunction with existing methods of gaseous hydrogen reduction by heating, electrochemical reduction methods, or methods of reduction by adding organic or inorganic reducing agents.
7. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-thermal plasma is generated by supplying a power determined by applying a plasma generation voltage suited for the metal compound to be reduced.

8. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the non-thermal plasma is generated by supplying a power determined by applying a plasma generation voltage suited for the metal compound to be reduced.